

Louisiana State Archives Newsletter Input  
October - December 2005

Secretary of State Al Ater and the staff of the Louisiana State Archives were recent hosts of Dr. Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States. Dr. Weinstein and his entourage visited Mississippi and Louisiana in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Dr. Weinstein was joined by Karl Neiderer, New Jersey State Archivist and President of the Council of State Archivists (CoSA); Preston Huff, Assistant Regional Administrator of the National Archives Southwest Region in Fort Worth, Texas; and National Archives Director of Preservation Programs Doris Hamburg.

Louisiana State Archives was recently recognized by Family Tree Magazine, dubbed "The World's Best Selling British Genealogical Publication," as AMONG THE 101 BEST "UNDISCOVERED" SITES FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN 2005.

Louisiana State Archives: Confederate Pension Applications Index Database

[www.sos.louisiana.gov/archives/gen/cpa-index.htm](http://www.sos.louisiana.gov/archives/gen/cpa-index.htm)

Look for the Louisiana Confederates in this index of more than 49,000 names included in pension applications submitted to the state's Board of Pension Commissioners.

**HURRICANE KATRINA RECOVERY ACTIVITIES:**

1. Secretary of State's Web Page  
    [www.sos.louisiana.gov](http://www.sos.louisiana.gov)  
    Hurricane Katrina Recovery Information
2. Immediate action by Archives Staff  
    Meetings  
        Archives Executive Staff  
        Louisiana Historical Records Advisory Board Members and  
        Archives, New Orleans Public Library  
        Diocese of Baton Rouge  
        Historic New Orleans Collection  
        Louisiana Notarial Archives  
        Tulane Howard-Tilton Library  
    Assessment - telephone and on-site aid
3. Steps to Recovery  
    Contact with appropriate agencies  
    Referral of Secretary of State's Web Page - Recovery Information  
    Assessment of records  
    Backup copies  
    Ascertain if records are microfilmed/where located  
    Prioritize records and their importance  
    Seek additional help from resources offered  
    Implement assistance as prioritized and feasible
4. On-site visits  
    Louisiana Supreme Court building  
    St. Tammany records  
    Orleans Parish Courthouse
5. Orleans Parish  
    NARA/Coroners Office, Criminal Court, District Attorney
6. Telephone assessments  
    Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court  
    Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Vital Records Registry  
    Notarial Archives - State Agency located in Orleans Parish  
    Orleans Parish Clerk of Court, Civil Court  
    Orleans Parish Clerk of Court, Criminal Court

Plaquemines Parish Clerk of Court  
St. Bernard Parish Clerk of Court  
St. Charles Parish Clerk of Court  
St. Tammany Clerk of Court  
Tangipahoa Parish Clerk of Court  
Washington Parish Clerk of Court

7. Resources

Council of State Archivists (CoSA)  
National Archives - Southwest Region/Fort Worth  
Georgia State Archives  
NAGARA (National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators)  
Florida Department of State  
Le Comité des Archives de Louisiane  
New York Archives  
Southwest ARMA Region (Association of Records Management Administrators)  
Heritage Emergency National Task Force  
FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency)  
National Archives  
Society of Southwest Archivists

8. Publications

Before and After Disasters: A Guide to Federal Funding for Cultural Institutions  
Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel

9. Heritage Preservation Supplies to be stored in Jackson, MS and furnished upon request

Medium-duty and heavy-duty gloves  
Good quality masks  
Disposable aprons and shoe coverings  
Eye protection (goggles)  
Brushes of various sizes  
Disposable scrapers  
Sponges, cotton rags, toweling  
Plastic buckets  
Rolled plastic sheeting (Visquene)  
Waxed paper, wrapping paper, and cotton string  
Blotting paper  
Plastic tubs, bins, or boxes, heavy duty garbage bags  
Labels of various types  
Water in gallon or multi-gallon containers  
Boxes of various sizes  
Rolled and sheet polyethylene  
Sheet coroplast or similar plastic  
Box fans  
Disinfectant and rubbing alcohol  
First aid supplies - bandages, antibiotic creams, etc.

10. Spreadsheet

Ongoing assessment survey of all agencies in BOTH Katrina and Rita damaged areas

11. Visit by National Archivist Allen Weinstein and his staff

Additionally, in the wakes of hurricanes Katrina and Rita the Conservation Lab staff has been involved in damage assessment and mitigation for the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District, Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, Louisiana State Exhibit Museum, Louisiana State Museum, Louisiana Supreme Court, Plaquemines Parish Registrar of Voters, Slidell City Court, and the Slidell City Police department.

## RECORDS MANAGEMENT:

Since Katrina and Rita struck Louisiana, the Records Management Section has been assisting numerous state and local agencies in the salvage, preservation and recreation of their records. The program responded to hundreds of phone calls from agencies, the public and service providers ranging from how to obtain records from other sources to requests for advice on how (or where) to proceed in their given situation. The program has been tracking over 500 local and state agencies in the area damaged by Katrina and over 475 local and state agencies in the area damaged by Rita.

In addition, the program worked closely with the National Archives representatives in Fort Worth and Maryland keeping them informed on developing records related situations and in the efforts to help salvage records from the Orleans Parish Criminal Clerk of Court, Coroner and District Attorney's offices, which like many buildings in New Orleans had over five feet of flood water for well over a month. The program also assisted the State's Vital Records Registry communicate information to the parish Clerks of Court about changes in the procedures for issuing replacement birth cards and certificates. The program has also been asked (and has begun) to speak to various governmental associations about the importance of disaster planning and lessons learned from the unprecedented 2005 Hurricane Season.

## RESEARCH LIBRARY:

Thanks to the efforts of the New Orleans Volunteer Association (N.O.V.A.) in coordination with the USGenWeb Project, the Louisiana State Archives now offers information to its patrons online at <http://www.rootsweb.com/usgenweb/la/orleans.htm> the Orleans Parish Birth Index 1790 - 1902, the Orleans Parish Death Index 1804 - 1915 and the Orleans Marriage 1831 - 1913. Additionally, the Genealogical Society of Utah has recently digitally imaged the World War I Records Collection (P1988-182) which will soon be available to patrons in our research library. This collection contains an alphabetical listing within each parish of soldiers who served in World War I, including name, address, age (or date of birth), branch of service, wounds received, time in service, rank and date of discharge.

In the past few months visitors and researchers from the states of California, Illinois, Maryland, Mississippi, Michigan, New York, Tennessee, Texas, and Washington, DC have conducted research in the Archives Research Library.

## LOUISIANA HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD:

The Louisiana Historical Records Advisory Board (LHRAB) met on December 15th and discussed its Strategic Plan. Also discussed was the administration of the fiscal grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to help in hurricane recovery. The LHRAB has mailed out a survey for potential grant recipients. Inquiries can be made to Dr. Bruce Turner at [bturner@louisiana.edu](mailto:bturner@louisiana.edu).

## RECORDS CENTER PARTNERSHIPS:

Amite District Probation & Parole  
Department of Corrections-Fiscal Division  
Department of Corrections-Procurement  
Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism  
Department of Education  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Department of Health and Hospitals  
Department of Health and Hospitals-Appeals  
Department of Natural Resources  
Department of Social Services-Payment Management  
Division of Administration -Office of Community Development

Division of Administration - Office of Telecommunications Management  
Division of Administration - Purchasing  
Division of Administration - Risk Management Dixon Correctional  
Legislative Auditor  
Louisiana Capitol Federal Credit Union  
Louisiana State University Accounting Service  
Office of Student Financial Assistance  
Tax Commission

#### NEW COLLECTIONS:

Attorney General, Office of the; Opinions, September-November, 2005  
Legislative Instruments (Dead Ducks), 2005 Regular Session  
Natural Resources, Department of; Field Audit Reports (various dates)  
New Orleans District Court, Declarations of Intention, 1813-1906 (National Archives Microfilm)  
"Rebel Archives" (addition); Acts of Louisiana General Assembly, 1862  
Senate Journals, April - June, 2005

#### CHRISTMAS AT STATE ARCHIVES:

The Louisiana State Archives Christmas Program was held on Monday, December 12, in the Archives auditorium. This special program highlighted an educational project developed in partnership with East Baton Rouge Parish's Children's Charter School, host to students evacuated from New Orleans as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

As part of a Louisiana history project, thirty-five Children's Charter School students were introduced to Louisiana's official state symbols. The project involved these students actually making a "Katrina Quilt" using state symbols. Through this experiential activity, teachers were able to fuse a Louisiana history lesson with discussions on volunteerism, good citizenship, and service to the community.

The State Archives Christmas tree was beautifully decorated with the Katrina Quilt squares along with one hundred, hand-pieced hearts. The students worked unselfishly sewing the quilt and the Archives program expressed appreciation for their efforts. Evacuated students received special gifts during this program. Following the program, the students encircled the Christmas tree and sang Christmas carols. Later, Dawn Abraham, Archives staff member and coordinator of the Christmas Program, was interviewed on Baton Rouge WAFB TV's Toomey's Travels.

The Hurricane Katrina "Quilt of Love" auction to benefit hurricane relief efforts will be scheduled at a later date.

#### ART GALLERY/OUTREACH ACTIVITIES:

The 2006 art shows are listed as follows and they all end on the last day of the month.

January - River Road  
February - National Pen Women  
March - Louisiana Watercolor Society  
April and May - East Baton Rouge Gifted and Talented Program

During the latter part of April is a tentatively scheduled program entitled "Art at the Archives" along with the dedication of the newly constructed Edwin Davis Plaza. Artists and artisans have been invited to participate in demonstrating, exhibiting, and selling their art works. From oil painting to woodworking, specific areas will be arranged throughout the grounds for the public to visit. Also, as the individual greatly

responsible for laying the groundwork for the establishment of a State Archives in Louisiana, Dr. Edwin Davis will be honored with the dedication of the new Edwin Davis Plaza in front of the Louisiana State Archives building.

OUTREACH PRESENTATIONS:

Canary Islanders Historical Society of Louisiana  
Lions Club of Baton Rouge  
La Lecture Book Club of Baton Rouge

VISITORS TO THE ARCHIVES:

CODOFIL President  
River Road Artists  
The Archivist of the United States  
The Baton Rouge La Lecture Book Club  
The Associated Women in the Arts

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